

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is amended and claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 are canceled herein.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection.

In particular, claim 1 is merely amended to incorporate the features of dependent claim 2. Based on the incorporation of claim 2 into claim 1, claim 2, as well as claims 4, 6 and 8, have been canceled. Since the amendment to claim 1 merely incorporates a dependent claim, no new issues are created by this amendment. Therefore, the amendment should clearly be entered pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 2, which recited that the position and configuration of the resists applied on the reverse side of the phenolic resin impregnated paper base match with those of the resists applied on the face side of the phenolic resin impregnated paper base. By applying resists of the same material in the same position and configuration on the reverse side as on the face side, the face and reverse sides of the claimed laminate are symmetrical in terms of thermal expandability, whereby its warp can be kept to a minimum as described in paragraph [0051] of the specification. In addition, there is less consumption of resist material than in the case where resists are applied on the full face of the paper face. As discussed below, it is respectfully

submitted that the cited references do not teach or suggest this feature or the advantages achieved thereby.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Gause et al. in view of Voroba. In addition, claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Gause in view of Voroba and further in view of Huang et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

As indicated in the previous Amendment, Gause is directed to unclad or metal clad laminates constructed by sandwiching a resin impregnated core of paper between epoxy resin impregnated woven glass fabric sheets. Gause teaches that metal foil may be bonded directly to one or both of the outer woven glass layers during the fabrication of the laminate.

Gause does not teach or suggest a laminate in which copper foils adapted to have terminals of electronic components soldered thereon are laminated on a face side of a resin impregnated paper base and resists are applied on the same face of the resin impregnated paper base as the copper foils, except an area adapted to have the terminals of the electronic components soldered on the copper foils. In addition, Gause does not teach or suggest resists forms of a same material as the resists on the face side applied on a reverse side of the resin impregnated paper base, wherein the position and configuration of the resists applied on the reverse side match with the position and configuration of the resists applied on the face side.

Neither Voroba nor Huang overcome the deficiencies of Gause. In particular, neither of these references teach or suggest a laminate in which resists are applied on the face side of a resin impregnated paper base, except an area adapted to have terminals of electronic component soldered on copper foils, and resists are applied on the reverse side of the resin impregnated paper base in a position and configuration that matches with the position and configuration of the resists applied on the face side.

Gause, Voroba and Huang, alone or as combined, fail to teach or suggest all of the features of claim 1 or the advantages provided thereby, such as minimizing warp as discussed

above. Therefore, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 over these references should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Nomura in view of Voroba. In addition, claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Nomura in view of Voroba and further in view of Huang. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

As indicated in the previous Amendment, Nomura is directed to a base board comprising at least one sheet of prepreg comprising a thermosetting resin as an impregnant and a layer comprising a composition of a semi-cured thermosetting resin and a nitrile rubber on one or both sides of the prepreg layer. In addition, Nomura teaches the use of this base board for printing circuits prepared by the additive process. In the additive process, metal is plated on the base board, masking ink is plated on the metal layer to form the circuit pattern, metal is plated in the areas not plated by the masking ink, and the masking ink layer is then removed.

Nomura does not teach or suggest a laminate in which copper foils adapted to have terminals of electronic components soldered thereon are laminated on a face side of a resin impregnated paper base, resists are applied on the same face side of the resin impregnated paper base as the copper foils, except an area adapted to have the terminals of electronic components soldered on the copper foils, and resists formed of a same material as the resists on the face side are applied on a reverse side of the resin impregnated paper base in a position and configuration that matches with the position in configuration of the resists applied on the face side.

Neither Voroba nor Huang overcome the deficiencies of Nomura. In particular, neither Voroba nor Huang teach or suggest resists applied on a face side except an area adapted to have the terminals of electronic components soldered on the copper foils, and

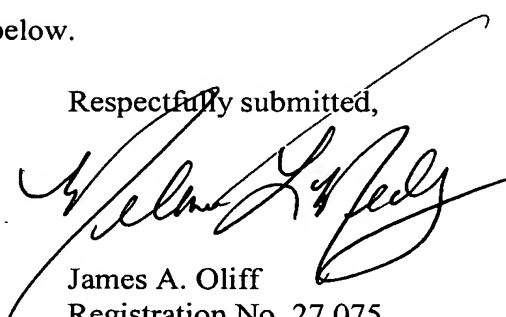
resists formed of a same material applied on a reverse side in a position and configuration that matches with the position and configuration of the resists applied on the face side.

Nomura, Voroba and Huang, alone or as combined, fail to teach or suggest all of the features of claim 1 or the advantages provided thereby, such as minimizing warp as discussed above. Therefore, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 over these references should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Melanie L. Mealy  
Registration No. 40,085

JAO:MLM/jam

Date: September 30, 2003

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE  
AUTHORIZATION  
Please grant any extension  
necessary for entry;  
Charge any fee due to our  
Deposit Account No. 15-0461